

File 157

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR/Germany (Soviet Zone)	REPORT	
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
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ARMY review completed.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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COUNTRY USSR/ Germany (Soviet Zone)**DATE DISTR.** 3 Nov 1954**SUBJECT** Soviet Army Training and Maneuvers:
24th Mech. Regt., 7th Mech. Div. and
10th Sep. Gds. Bn.**NO. OF PAGES** 15**DATE OF INFORMATION****REFERENCES:****PLACE ACQUIRED**

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION**GARRISON TRAINING**

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General

1. [redacted] guard unit, assigned to the Counterintelligence Administration, GOFG, little emphasis was placed upon training. The four guard companies rotated in their guard duties regularly. On days when they were not on guard, men in the companies participated in some close-order drill, individual weapons training, interior guard training, on occasions went outside the compound for tactical training, or performed fatigue tasks about the billets.
2. In general, garrison training was rather lax. The time element involved in carrying out guard duties did not permit the unit as a whole to adhere to a strict garrison training schedule. Training, with the exception of political training, was conducted by NCO's. The men were expected primarily to perform their guard duties and to be well up on political training.
3. Enlisted members of the housekeeping and motor transportation platoon were primarily concerned with their individual responsibilities in the administrative and service sections to which they were assigned, and in the battalion motor pool.

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Political Training

4. Political training was conducted twice weekly. Each period lasted two hours. This phase of training was compulsory and was religiously adhered to. No obligatory service EM were exempt from it. Company political officers were responsible for conducting political training in the guard companies. The Motor Trans. Plat. received its political training from Lt. MARKOV, the platoon leader; the Housekeeping Plat. was instructed by Capt. SIGOV, battalion personnel records and administrative officer.
5. "Sverkhsrochniki" (extended tour enlistees) were guided politically by the unit Party secretary, Capt. AFANASYEV, who conducted classes for them apart from the rest of the men. Some of the subjects discussed at the political training classes were: "The Soldier's Military Responsibilities"; "STALIN and LENIN, Their Lives and Their Works"; "The Soviet Union as a Bulwark of Peace"; "Democracy and Socialism"; "The Soviet Constitution"; "Reports on Party Congresses".
6. [redacted] officers did not receive political training in his unit.

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Tactical Training

7. [redacted] At times, a company not on guard duty would leave the compound for tactical training. [redacted] The housekeeping and motor transportation platoons were never given tactical instructions. The battalion never participated in marches, bivouacs, or CPX's [redacted]

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Drill and Special Training

8. Close-order drill was occasionally conducted in the unit compound by the guard companies not on guard duty. This was not done on any regular basis, however. Most of the close-order drill was supervised by NCO's. Sometimes an officer would be seen conducting such drills, but only when a platoon was drilling. [redacted] a trench was being dug near the battalion headquarters building for the purpose of conducting atomic defense training [redacted]

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Weapons Firing

9. Individual weapons firing was conducted two or three times a year. Ammunition expenditure each time the course was fired consisted of nine rounds for the SMG and three to four rounds for the carbine. [redacted] four hits out of nine rounds fired from the SMG was considered good. [redacted] The SMG was fired at a range of 100 m., from the prone position. The carbine was also fired from the prone position [redacted] the distance [redacted] was at 200 m. Targets used in firing were normally silhouettes. The SMG target represented a human body down to the waist. The carbine target was a silhouette of the head and shoulders. [redacted] no special preliminary rifle instructions were conducted prior to firing. [redacted] this type of training was scheduled throughout the entire year.²

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Physical Training

10. Physical training, consisting of exercises on the horizontal bar, parallel bars, vaulting horse, rings, etc., was normally held once a week. Each period lasted about two hours. Exemption from physical training was given upon the presentation of a "sick slip" from the dispensary. Physical training was for the most part conducted or supervised by NCO's. There were no "fizruks" (physical education instructors) in the unit.

ALERTSPractice Alerts

11. Practice alerts were held spontaneously in the companies and were called by the battalion CO.

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Battalion practice alerts, called by some unknown higher headquarters, occurred about five times a year.

Actual Alerts

12. Actual alerts were called in the event of any emergency such as the 17 June 1953 Berlin uprising, and when a member of the unit disappeared.

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13. In the event of an alert, either practice or actual driver was to take his combat pack, weapon, gas mask, and field entrenching tool and report to the motor pool to stand by his vehicle, and wait for further instructions. the battalion food and supply clerk reported with the same equipment to the supply room to wait for further orders.

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each company was to report to the supply room to pick up its own emergency rations. These rations, however, were not broken down in any way.

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14. all drivers reported to their vehicles with their field equipment and stood by for further orders. The guard companies formed and moved away on foot to another part of the compound.

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During an alert, the sentries in the compound were doubled.

BASIC TRAINING

15. all recruits underwent basic training in the USSR.

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a group of recruits were sent to East Germany for basic training.

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16. basic training lasted two months.

basic training with a mortar regiment in Korosten /N 50-57. E 28-39/

The usual strong emphasis was placed on political indoctrination. Political training was given by officers.

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17. Training other than political was given by NCO's who were quite lenient when an officer was not present. The men received a minimum of two hours of close-order drill daily and some squad tactics which were followed up by platoon tactics. The recruits trained with wooden rifles except when they were learning rifle nomenclature. For this purpose they had several rifles with holes drilled in the top of the receivers. [redacted] these holes were drilled as a safety measure. Prior to completing basic training each man fired three rounds from the carbine. [redacted] when they left the camp area for training the sergeant would post a lookout to watch for officers while the other men had a gay time singing (or sleeping). The sergeant briefed them on the subject they were supposed to be covering in the event that an officer asked. [redacted]
18. [redacted] basic training was carried on all the year round in the USSR. [redacted] The men who reported for duty [redacted] were sent to various branches of the service for their basic training.
19. [redacted] the majority of recruits sent to East Germany arrived after maneuvers to fill vacancies created by demobilization of soldiers who had served their tours. The soldiers who were to be demobilized were used for maneuvers and then sent back to the USSR for subsequent demobilization. The recruits who arrived were then put into training for the following year. [redacted] recruits in the 10th Sep. Gd. Bn. were not permitted to go on guard duty for a month after their arrival. This was to give them time to become oriented and to be given instructions on various aspects of guard duty in the unit.

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SUMMER TRAINING

10th Sep. Gd. Bn.

20. [redacted] the unit never participated in any CPX's, field exercises, summer training, or maneuvers.

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Recon. Co., 24th Mecz. Regt., 7th Mecz. Div.

21. Movement to the area:

- a. [redacted] only a guard complement was left to guard the winter quarters area. [redacted] in June [redacted] the unit was in summer quarters and no specialized training of recruits was accomplished during the period.
- b. [redacted] the regiment took all of its equipment when the unit moved to its summer quarters for training. [redacted] perhaps some old unserviceable equipment as well as permanently emplaced shop machinery were left behind. No built-in fixtures, such as faucets, sinks, etc., were moved. However, all light bulbs were taken to the summer camp.
- c. [redacted] all of the T/O weapons and equipment were taken to summer quarters.

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d.

[redacted] the move was effected by rail transportation in addition to moving out in unit vehicles.

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[redacted] in cases where vehicles were transported by rail, i.e., tanks, trucks, SP artillery, etc., the normal operating crews of these vehicles rode with the vehicles. [redacted] 25 men with their individual equipment were normally loaded into a ZIS-5 when such vehicles were used in transporting personnel.)

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e.

[redacted] it took about one day for a vehicle to traverse the route from winter to summer quarters, a distance of about 60 to 70 km. [redacted] it would take a bit longer by rail because of the loading and unloading involved in such a move.

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[redacted] (See Annex A for location and facilities available to the unit in summer quarters.)

22. Messing:

[redacted] there was one EM mess hall for the entire regiment. The regimental units ate their meals in relays. The kitchen had a cement floor and was equipped with coal/wood stoves and cooking vats which were a permanent part of the building. The men, after going through the line, ate their meals in the same building. However, that portion of the building which served as the dining room had only a roof overhead. It was supported by wooden upright poles. The floor was of dirt with a thin cover of sand or gravel. There were no walls. Tables consisted of a row of wooden poles about one meter high emplaced in the ground with a wooden board extended over the top of the poles. The men sat on benches to eat their meals; the benches were constructed like the tables but were lower.

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23. Recreation and bathing facilities:

- a. Recreational facilities were plentiful when the men were not occupied with training. Movies were shown outdoors every Saturday and Sunday evening. The unit was quartered alongside a lake and swimming was allowed. Organized athletics, such as volleyball, were a compulsory part of training. Recreational equipment such as chess, checkers, and musical instruments were drawn from the regiment by the unit political officer or first sergeant and made available to the men in their day rooms (lenkomnaty) for after-duty recreation.
- b. Hot water showers were available every seven days for the men of the technical services. Others were given hot water showers every 10 days. Hot water and soap were plentiful. The men could also bathe in the lake if they wished to do so.

24. Range firing:

Ranges were available for mortar, artillery, tank and infantry

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weapons firing. [redacted]

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(For general location of these ranges see Annex A.)
At one time while the regiment was conducting "combat firing" (boyevyye strel'by) all the weapons were fired simultaneously on various respective targets. [redacted]

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[redacted] Recon.
Co. personnel fired on a moving target representing an armored personnel carrier which was towed with a cable by a BA-64 armored car. The distance between the BA-64 and the target was about 50 m. and the distance between the target and the firer was about 350 m. The target was towed at a speed of from 10 to 15 km. per hour. Only vehicle commanders were permitted to fire. A 50 caliber Browning HMG mounted on an M-3A-1 White scout car (an old US lend-lease leftover) was used for the firing. Tracers were not used. Lead on target was estimated. Firing was conducted in the following manner: The scout car would drive across the range. The drawn target would be pulled into view. The scout car would halt for a short period of time and the vehicle commander would fire a short burst at it. Then the scout car would move away. About 10 rounds of ammunition were expended by each man firing. [redacted]

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25. Supply:

[redacted]
was piped in. [redacted]

Water for drinking and cooking

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26. Camouflage:

[redacted] tree branches and brush were used for camouflage. [redacted] at times [redacted] vehicles and artillery parked in the open under tactical conditions with no camouflage at all. However, where possible, the forest and woods were used to hide objects from aerial observation. There were no camouflage nets.

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27. Restriction to area:

- a. There were several ways for keeping the EM and officers confined to the summer training area. First, permission to leave the area was not granted except for fulfilling a training requirement. During actual training the soldier was always accounted for by his immediate superior and was kept under constant surveillance by him. If after duty a soldier wished to visit a comrade in another unit he had to go through channels to request permission from his first sergeant. The individual had to state the time he expected to return. After he had returned, his squad leader, or next superior in the case of a squad leader or platoon sergeant, notified the first sergeant. If the individual was tardy in returning he was reported and a search party sent after him.
- b. Officers also had to request permission from their immediate superiors and give the time of their expected return. A company muster was held at 2230 hours and bed check was made by the CQ during the night. A regimental muster was held once a week. There were no fences or obstacles around the camp. There were sentries posted in the various motor and artillery parks as well as occasional roving foot patrols who were apt to halt and check a person wandering too far. If during the night a man had to relieve himself, he had to check out with a CQ who was awake all night.

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28. Training program:

a.

training was scheduled prior to departure from winter quarters and that it would be put into effect immediately upon arriving in summer quarters.

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b. The following training schedule, with variations, was generally followed

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Reveille.....	0600 - 0605
Morning calisthenics.....	0605 - 0625
Clean-up.....	0625 - 0645
Morning inspection.....	0645 - 0655
Breakfast.....	0655 - 0725
Issuance of orders and assignments...	0725 - 0755
Training.....	0755 - 1220
Care and cleaning of weapons.....	1220 - 1250
Rest period and clean-up.....	1250 - 1400
Dinner.....	1400 - 1500
Compulsory rest period.....	1500 - 1630
Evening classes.....	1630 - 1830
Free time.....	1830 - 1900
Supper.....	1900 - 2000
Free time.....	2000 - 2130
Roll call and taps.....	2130 - 2200

c. Political training classes were, as a rule, held on Tuesday and Friday mornings.

d. Saturday morning, motor stables were pulled by men in the Recon. Co. Afternoon activities varies. Sometimes the men were free, sometimes they were on detail or in classes.

e. The men were given free time every evening when night training was not scheduled and on Sundays. Some of the time was spent in recreation. Some men repaired their equipment; others preferred to sleep.

f.

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g.

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on one occasion, the evening prior to Recon. Co. tactical training, the company CO informed them [] that the following day would be spent in tactical training and told them to prepare all vehicles. Next morning the company had an early breakfast and the men were moved out with full gear to a wooded area. The company was again formed and the men were assigned their duties in accomplishing a reconnaissance mission.

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[] Platoon leaders were responsible for informing each man of the unit's mission. In training, the scouts parked their vehicles in forward areas, camouflaged them, and moved out on foot to reconnoiter. The company CO was present during the entire day's training.

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AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1951 MANEUVERS

[] summer training culminated in maneuvers in August-September. The following information was given in reference to it:

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Participating Units

29. [] only about half of [] regiment (the 24th) participated in the maneuvers. [] at least two of the battalions of the regiment did not take part. [] the Recon. Co., did participate as well as some artillery, tank, and mortar units. [] the other two regiments of the 7th Mecz. Div., the 25th and 26th, were represented in the maneuvers.

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Weapons and Equipment

30. [] an SP gun [] T-34 tanks, unidentified AAA, and unidentified artillery towed by Studebaker trucks. [] planes were also supposed to take part in the maneuver. [] At one stage of training prior to the maneuvers [] Studebaker 2½-ton amphibious trucks (DUKW) effecting a river crossing in the vicinity of Lieberose. They were loaded with artillery and crew. []

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[] no generals during the maneuvers but [] the division CG, Gen. KABARIDZE, was in the area.)

31. [] the unit field kitchen moved out from summer camp with them on the maneuvers.

Movement to the Area

32. A motor march of about 150 km. was made by the unit during maneuvers. [] the initial phase of the movement was by rail; at this time his unit loaded vehicles and equipment aboard flatcars and other railroad cars. They moved by rail for 24 hours and detrained in the vicinity of Berlin. At this point, they began a motor march. They drove until they reached the vicinity of Dessau [N 51-50, E 12-15], about 40 km., continued the maneuver, then after completion of the maneuvers drove to Hamersleben [N 52-03, E 11-05] to load aboard a train for return to summer camp. [] no marches by foot.

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Additional Data

33. [redacted] the maneuver continued day and night. [redacted] some men from the Recon. Co. had to go out on patrol during the night so he assumed it was a night maneuver as well as a day maneuver.) About 10 days elapsed from the time the unit departed from summer camp until the time it returned.) 25X1
34. The maneuver did not take place within the normal summer camp area. The normal summer camp area at Lieberose was located in the direction of the Polish-German border. The maneuver was conducted in the opposite end of Germany, toward the US zonal border. [redacted] 25X1
35. The vehicle repair shop moved out with the unit from summer camp. [redacted] hauled some food from the cities in the area. Bread was obtained from a bakery in Dessau, an establishment serviced by Russian soldiers. The supply officer [redacted] to Dessau to purchase vegetables on the German market. The regimental medical battalion also moved out of summer camp for the maneuver. 25X1
36. [redacted] half of the regiment remained behind. Included were two battalions and the training company (uchebnaya rota) [redacted] 25X1
37. [redacted] both telephones and radios being used during the maneuver [redacted] Codes were employed when sending messages. [redacted]
38. [redacted] the following shoulder boards worn by troops in the area and identified them as being of the following service branches:
 Black with blue piping - signal
 Black (completely) - engineers (sappers)
 Black with red piping - technical troops
39. [redacted] The water was obtained from hydrants in the German towns or cities. [redacted] 25X1
40. [redacted] the maneuver was primarily an attack maneuver. [redacted]
41. Controlling umpires were present. [redacted] they wore white arm bands on their left sleeves for identification. [redacted] 25X1
 [redacted] radio was the means of communication employed for umpire control but was not certain of this. 25X1

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42.

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43.

a critique was normally held at the end of a maneuver or any type training.

44.

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complaints were not likely to be voiced in the Soviet army. About the only real complaint [redacted] was one time when the bread for some reason was late in being delivered and crackers (sukhari) were substituted for it. The complaint was not made concerning the substitution itself but because the crackers were wormy. The complaint was not presented formally but manifested itself as grumbling on the part of some of the troops.

1.

2.

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Comment: [redacted] although "sverkhsrochniki" [redacted] were exempt from various training, [redacted] the "sverkhsrochniki" in the guard companies firing on the range [redacted]

ANNEXES:

- A. Summer Quarters and Training Area of the 7th Mecz. Div.
- B. EM Barracks in Summer Training Area of the 7th Mecz. Div. in Lieberose N 51-59, E 14-18

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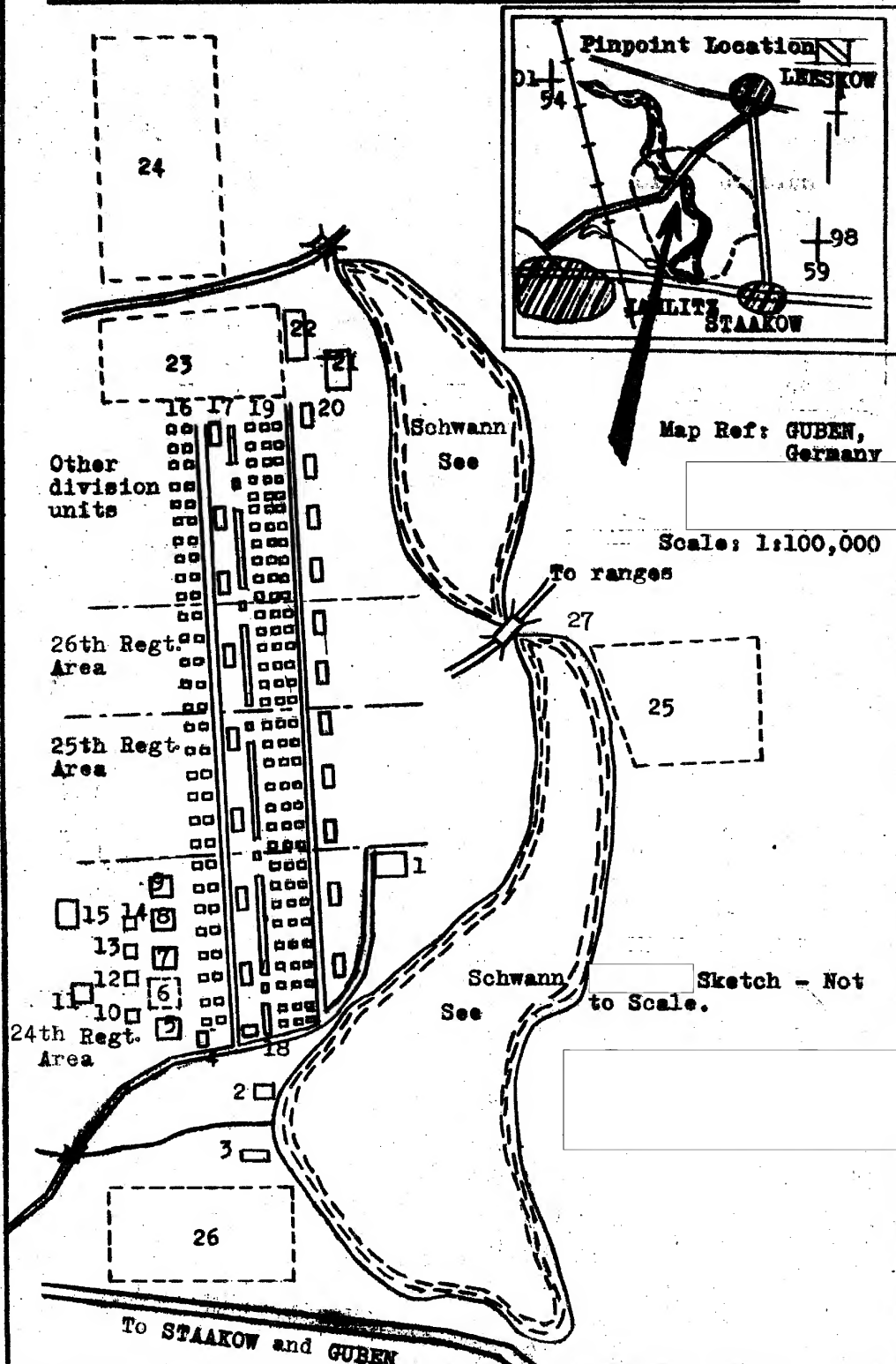
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Annex A

Summer Quarters and Training Area of the 7th Meas. Div.

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ANNEX A (CONT'D):

LEGEND

The drawing of the summer camp and immediate area is only a general layout.

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[redacted] the entire division was present. the 24th Mecz. Regt. was located in the southern extreme of the camp. Only that regiment's facilities for messing, recreation, bathing, and storing of supplies and equipment is shown in detail in the drawing. [redacted] identical facilities existed for the other regiments and battalions of the division in their respective areas.

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All buildings in the camp were made of wood.

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With exception of portions of the ranges, the entire area was located in a coniferous forest. Trees grew intermittently between the various camp buildings and concealed them from air observation.

1. Division Hq.
2. CG's quarters.
3. CG's reception and entertaining quarters.
4. Billet for regimental counterintelligence officers (three officers).
5. Regimental EM mess hall.
6. Regimental outdoor theater area with benches.
7. Regimental officers' mess hall.
8. Regimental Hq.
9. Regimental club for officers and EM.
10. Regimental dispensary.
11. Regimental chemical warehouse.
12. Regimental food supply warehouse.
13. Regimental clothing and equipment warehouse.
14. Regimental guardhouse.
15. Regimental bath.
16. Officer's barracks: Two rows. Same size as EM barracks but contained individual rooms.
17. Day rooms (Lenkomnaty): One row.
18. Latrines and washracks: One row.
19. EM barracks: Three rows. See Annex B for sketches.

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ANNEX A (CONT'D):

LEGEND:

- 20. Classrooms: One row.
- 21. Division PX.
- 22. Division club for officers and EM.
- 23. Division parade grounds
- 24. Tank, artillery, and vehicle parks.
- 25. Tank, artillery and vehicle parks.
- 26. 24th Mecz. Regt. motor and artillery park.
- 27. Bridge, for pedestrians only.

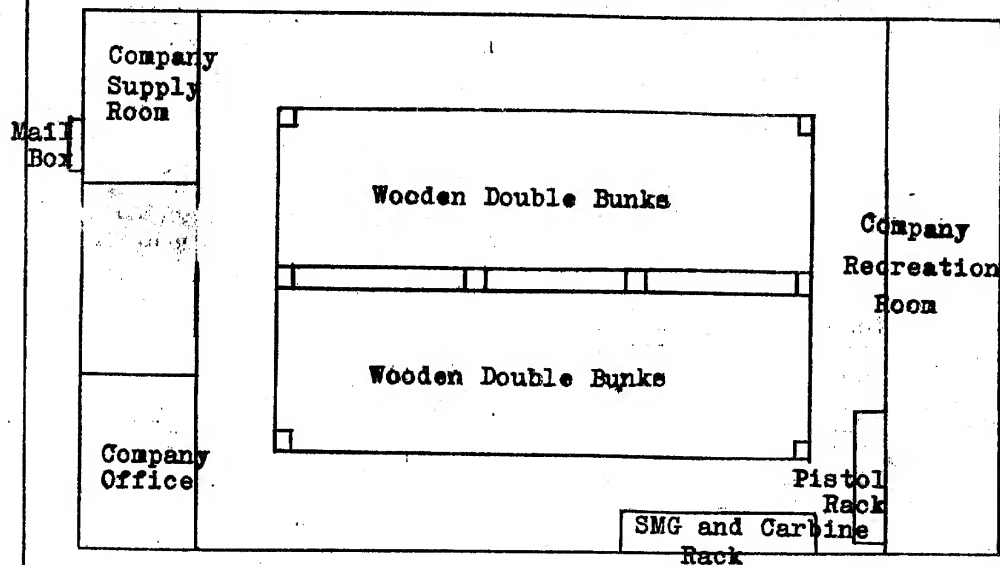
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Annex B**

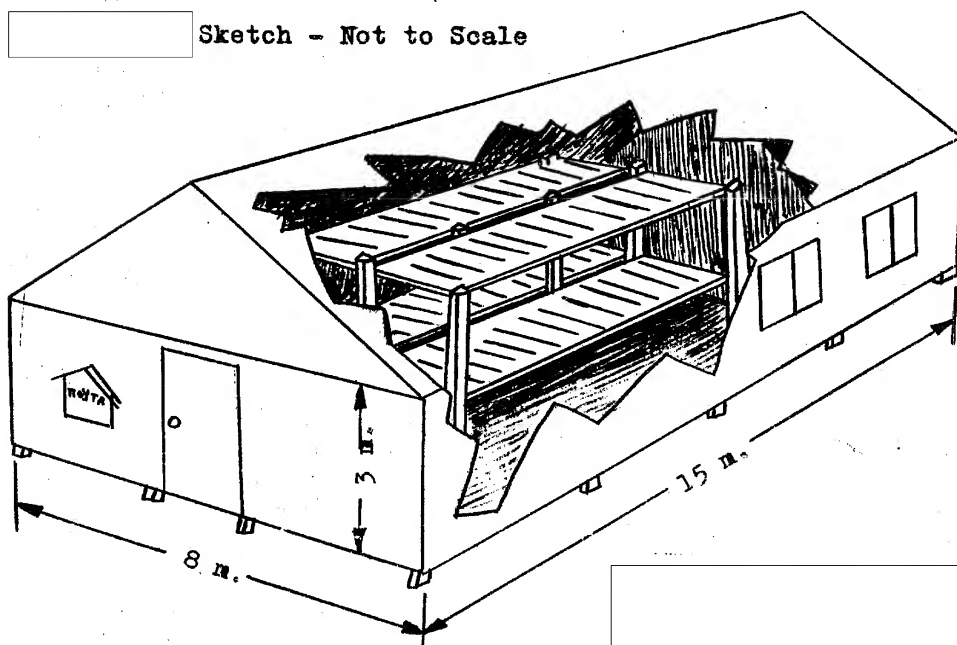
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EW Barrack in Summer Training Area of the 7th Mecz. Div.
in LIEBEROSE(5159N-1418E)



Sketch - Not to Scale

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ANNEX B (CONT'D):

LEGEND

1. The EM barracks were of identical construction. They were single-story, wooden buildings standing on wooden posts with the floor about 35 cm. above the ground. Each building had a tarpaper roof and a wooden floor. There were about five windows without screens on both sides of the building.
2. Across the length of the buildings were two rows of double-deck racks of wooden construction which could accommodate about 60 men. On these were placed straw mattresses. The men slept next to each other with their heads toward the center of the bunks, their feet pointing outward. In the rear of the room [redacted] there was a recreation room stocked with reading material and such recreational equipment as chess, checkers and musical instruments. To the left of the building entrance was a wooden mail box where mail could be deposited.
3. The company office was located immediately to the right after the building. The company supply room was located directly across from it. These rooms were identical in all the EM barracks, however, they were not utilized as supply rooms and orderly rooms in all cases. [redacted]

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